

traumatic stress. Now we must responsibly ask ourselves: Are we doing enough when it comes to addressing mental health in our veteran population?

Recent data has shown that every day in this country approximately 18 to 22 veterans take their own lives. This statistic answers the question I posed earlier. It is obvious more needs to be done.

Far too often we have heard of situations in which our veterans are being overprescribed opioids and antipsychotics. While traditional forms of therapies may work for some, tailoring therapies to the veterans and finding the balance between traditional and complementary, alternative treatments could be the difference in saving lives.

Late last year I met with a veteran who was able to tell me just how much alternative treatments have improved his life. His treatment plan to address his PTS and physical injuries consisted of over 30 different pills every day. He told me how much this affected him. He said he felt hopeless and wasn't quite himself anymore.

He then decided to take control of his life again and looked for an alternative. He found an alternative treatment in training and in caring for a service dog.

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Now, his treatment includes one multivitamin, one other medication, and a four-legged companion that never leaves his side.

The COVER Act is the next piece in a working formula to heal our veterans, mentally and physically. It will pave the way toward the inclusion of these complementary alternative therapies at the VA.

These therapies include, but certainly are not limited to, service animal therapy, yoga therapy, acupuncture, equine therapy, and accelerated resolution therapy. Mr. Speaker, I have heard the stories from these veterans, and these therapies really work. They need access to these therapies. At a recent town hall, I even heard about the benefits of martial arts. The martial arts were treating PTS.

Mr. Speaker, when treating mental health issues, one size does not fit all. Please support this good bill.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE), my colleague and a fellow physician on the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2256, as amended, which includes a bill I introduced, H.R. 1016, the Biological Implant Tracking and Veteran Safety Act.

A frightening January 2014 GAO report found that the VA does not use a standardized process for tracking biological tissue from a cadaver to a liv-

ing donor veteran patient. In the event of a recall, it would be virtually impossible to track down which patient had received contaminated tissue. GAO also found that the Veterans Health Administration does not always ensure it is purchasing tissue from biological implant vendors that have registered with the FDA and does not maintain an inventory system to prevent expired tissue from remaining in storage alongside unexpired tissues.

The GAO and Veterans' Affairs Committee staff have discovered that VA often uses a loophole that allows it to purchase biological implants on the open, unregulated market, which it does in 57 percent of its biological implant purchases. This bill would require the procurement of biological implants from vendors on the Federal supply schedules which have been appropriately vetted. For biological implants not on the Federal supply schedule but requested by clinicians, my bill requires justification and approval of open market purchases under the Federal acquisition regulation on a case-by-case basis rather than simply granting a blanket waiver.

This bill would also direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to adopt FDA's unique device identification system for labeling of all biological implant tissue and implement an automated inventory system to track the tissue from donor to implant recipient. This legislation would also require all biological implant tissue to be procured through vendors that are registered with the FDA, accredited by the American Association of Tissue Banks, and use FDA's unique device identification system.

The 6 million veterans served annually by VHA deserve the highest standard of patient care in the Nation. Implementation of H.R. 2256 would help establish the VA as an industry leader in biologic implant safety and accountability.

I want to thank the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee staff for their help in developing this legislation which truly puts veterans first.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman's support, and I again encourage all Members to support H.R. 2256, as amended.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2256, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further pro-

ceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PERMISSION TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON H.R. 1599, SAFE AND ACCURATE FOOD LABELING ACT OF 2015

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture be authorized to file a supplemental report on the bill H.R. 1599.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

FTO PASSPORT REVOCATION ACT OF 2015

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 237) to authorize the revocation or denial of passports and passport cards to individuals affiliated with foreign terrorist organizations, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on this measure for the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent at this time to withdraw the motion to suspend the rules.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The motion is withdrawn.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEE ANTIDISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2015

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1557) to amend the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 to strengthen Federal antidiscrimination laws enforced by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and expand accountability within the Federal government, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1557

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Federal Employee Antidiscrimination Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

Section 102 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (5 U.S.C. 2301 note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), to read as follows:

"(4) accountability in the enforcement of Federal employee rights is furthered when Federal agencies take appropriate disciplinary action against Federal employees who